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ABSTRACT

The Bureau of the Census collected information on age, residence, employment status, occupation, and income in March 1980 as a supplement to its monthly Current Population Survey. Data indicated that in March 1980 there were about 13.2 million persons of Spanish origin in the United States. Of these, there were about 60% of Mexican origin, 14% of Puerto Rican origin, 6% of Cuban origin, 8% of Central or South American origin, and about 12% of other Spanish origin. About 84% of all Spanish-origin families resided in metropolitan areas. The median age of Hispanic persons was 22 years. About 13% of the Spanish-origin population was under 5 years of age and about 4% were 65 years old and over. About 5 million Spanish-origin persons were in the civilian labor force. The unemployment rate for Spanish-origin persons was higher (8.9%) than that for non-Spanish persons (6.5%). Only about 9% of Spanish-origin persons were working in professional occupations, 24% worked as operatives, and abut 3% were employed as farm laborers. The median income in 1979 was $14,600 for Hispanic families and $20,000 for non-Spanish origin persons. Differences in family income were also evident in 1979 by type of Spanish origin. (NQA)

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Current Population Reports

Population Characteristics

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Series P-20, No. 361
Issued May 1981

Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1980 (Advance Report)

NOTE

The estimates of the Spanish-origin population in this report will not agree with the counts from the 1980 census of population. The provisional 1980 count of the Spanish-origin population is 14.6 million. The Current Population Survey (CPS) estimate for March 1980 of 13.2 million is based on population controls from the 1970 census which have been updated for changes in the population since that time. In addition, the CPS and the 1980 census used different procedures for collecting information and processing the data for the Spanish-origin population. Furthermore, the CPS estimate represents the civilian noninstitutional population whereas the census count is for the total resident population.

The March 1980 CPS estimates will be retabulated based on 1980 census population controls. These revised CPS estimates will be presented in a subsequent Current Population Report.

This report presents advance data on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of persons of Spanish origin[1] in the United States. This information was collected by the Bureau of the Census in March 1980 as a supplement to its monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). Characteristics presented include age, residence, employment status, occupation, and income.

In March 1980, the number of persons of Spanish origin in the United States totaled about 13.2 million.[2] About 60 percent of these persons were of Mexican origin, 14 percent were of Puerto Rican origin, 6 percent were of Cuban origin, 8 percent were of Central or South American origin, and about 12 percent were of other Spanish origin. (See note and table 1.)

Most families of Spanish origin lived in metropolitan areas. In March 1980, about 84 percent of all Spanish-origin families resided in metropolitan areas, compared with 66 percent of families not of Spanish origin. Furthermore, differences in residential preference existed among the Spanish-origin groups; about 79 percent of Mexican-origin families were living in metropolitan areas, compared with 95 percent of Puerto Rican-origin families (table 2).

Largely as a result of higher fertility, the population of Spanish origin in the United States was a younger population than the non-Spanish population; the median age of Hispanic persons (22 years) was substantially lower than that for persons not of Spanish origin (31 years). Thirteen percent of the Spanish-origin population was under 5 years of age, compared with 7 percent for the non-Spanish population, and about 4 percent of all Hispanic persons were 65 years old and over as compared with 11 percent of non-Hispanic persons (table 3).

The number of Spanish-origin persons in the civilian labor force reached about 5 million in March 1980. The unemployment rate for these persons was higher (8.9 percent) than that for non-Spanish persons (6.5 percent). The unemployment rate also differed by type of Hispanic origin; for example, 5.0 percent of Cuban-origin persons in the civilian labor force were unemployed in March 1980, compared to 11.7 percent for Puerto Rican-origin persons.

The proportion of employed Hispanic persons in higher paying jobs was lower than that for non-Hispanic persons. Only about 9 percent of Spanish persons were working in professional occupations, compared with 17 percent of non-Spanish persons; conversely, the proportion of employed Hispanic persons working as operatives (24 percent) was substantially higher than that for non-Spanish persons (14 percent). The survey showed that about 3 percent of Spanish workers were employed as farm laborers.

The median income in 1979 was lower for Hispanic families than that for families not of Spanish origin ($14,600

[1] In this report, the terms "Spanish origin," "Spanish," and "Hispanic" are used interchangeably.

[2] The data on Spanish-origin persons from the March 1980 CPS are not completely comparable with the estimates published from the March 1979 CPS. A processing problem discovered since publication of the 1979 data indicates that about 300,000 Spanish-origin persons were not included in the March 1979 CPS estimates of the Spanish-origin population.

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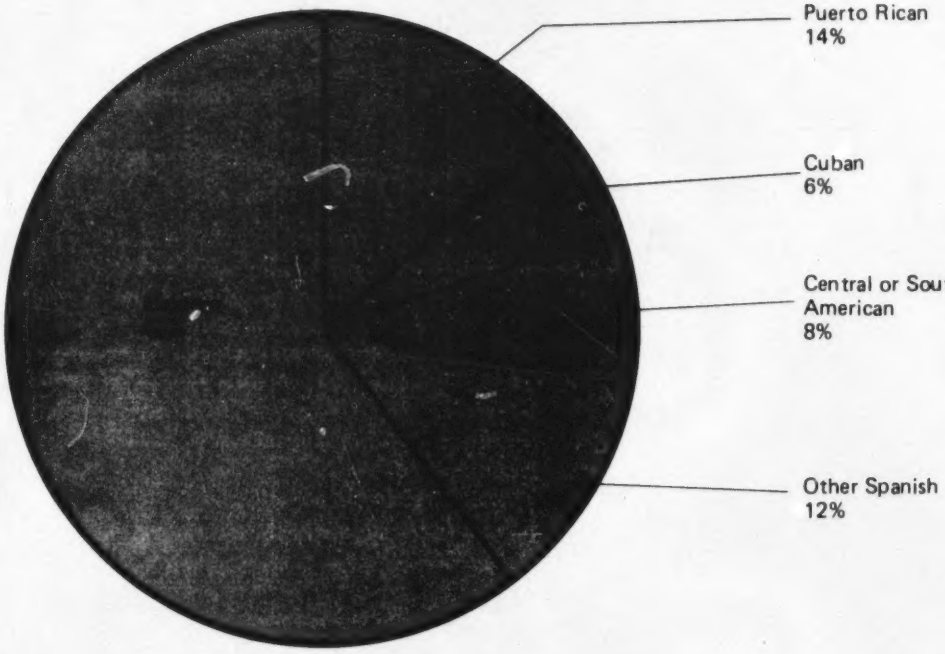
FIGURE 1.

Percent Distribution of Persons of Spanish Origin, by Type of Spanish Origin: March 1980



and $20,000, respectively). The lower median income for Spanish-origin families is reflected in the income distribution: 12 percent had incomes under $5,000, and about 39 percent had incomes between $5,000 and $15,000. In the upper end of the income distribution, about 21 percent of Spanish families had incomes of $25,000 or more, compared with 35 percent of non-Spanish families (table 5).

Differences in family income were also evident in 1979 by type of Spanish origin. For instance, the median income of $17,500 for Cuban families was substantially higher than the median income of Puerto Rican families ($9,900). A factor contributing to the low Puerto Rican family income status may be the low median number of years of educational attainment of persons maintaining Puerto Rican families.

Information in this report on persons of Spanish origin was obtained from responses to the question shown in figure 2.

Persons of Spanish origin were persons who reported themselves as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish origin. Persons who reported themselves specifically as Mexican-American, Chicano, or Mexican were consolidated into the Mexican category.

Tables in this report show data for some or all of these subcategories of Spanish origin. A more inclusive report on the characteristics of these persons is forthcoming.

FIGURE 2.

Form CPS-668B—Origin or Descent Flashcard

(B)

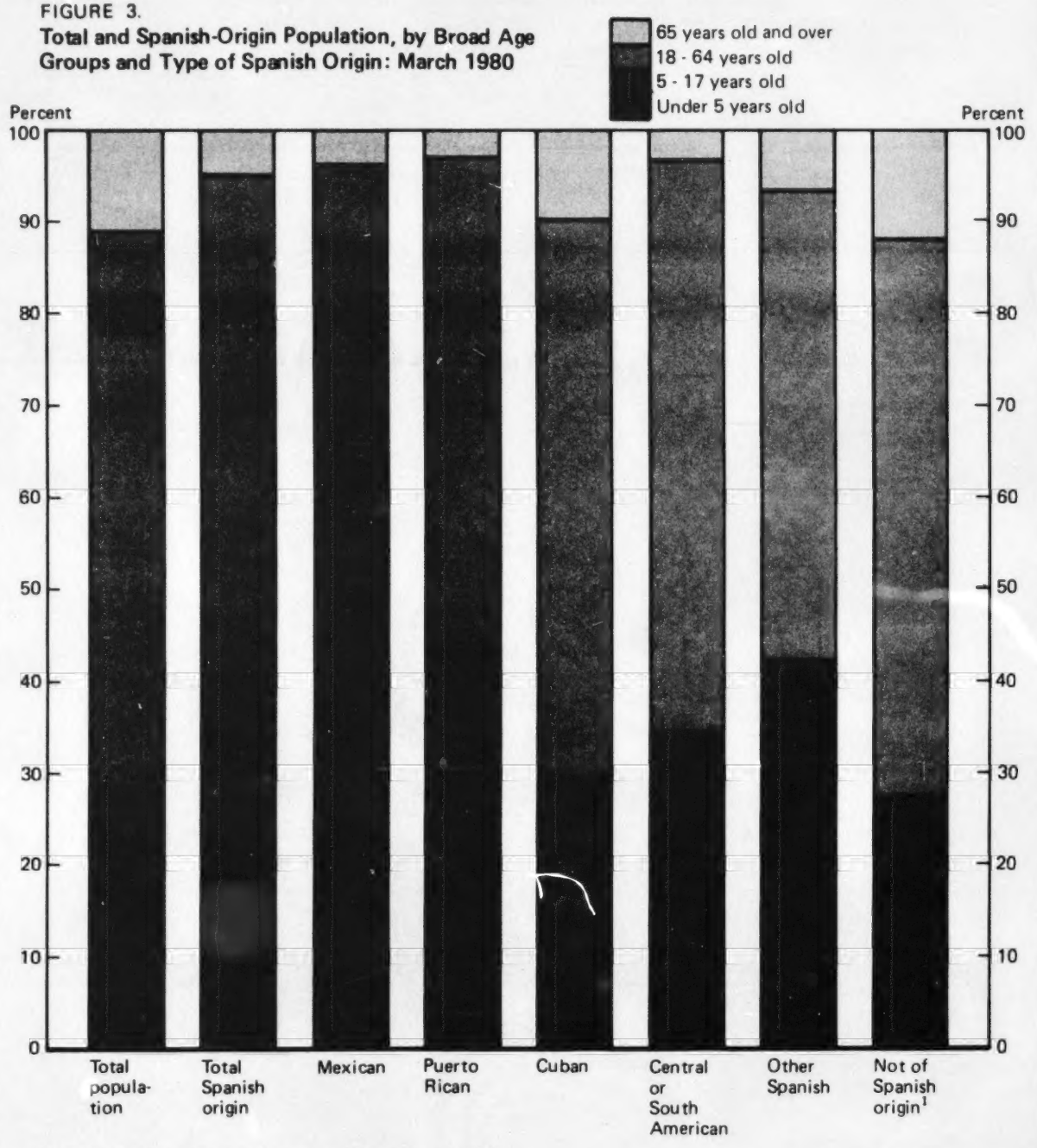
What is the origin or descent of each person in this household?

01 German	10 Mexican-American
02 Italian	11 Chicano
03 Irish	12 Mexican
04 French	14 Puerto Rican
05 Polish	15 Cuban
06 Russian	16 Central or South American (Spanish Countries)
07 English	17 Other Spanish
08 Scottish	20 Afro-American (Black, Negro)
09 Welsh	

OR

30 Another group not listed

FIGURE 3.
Total and Spanish-Origin Population, by Broad Age Groups and Type of Spanish Origin: March 1980



[1] Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

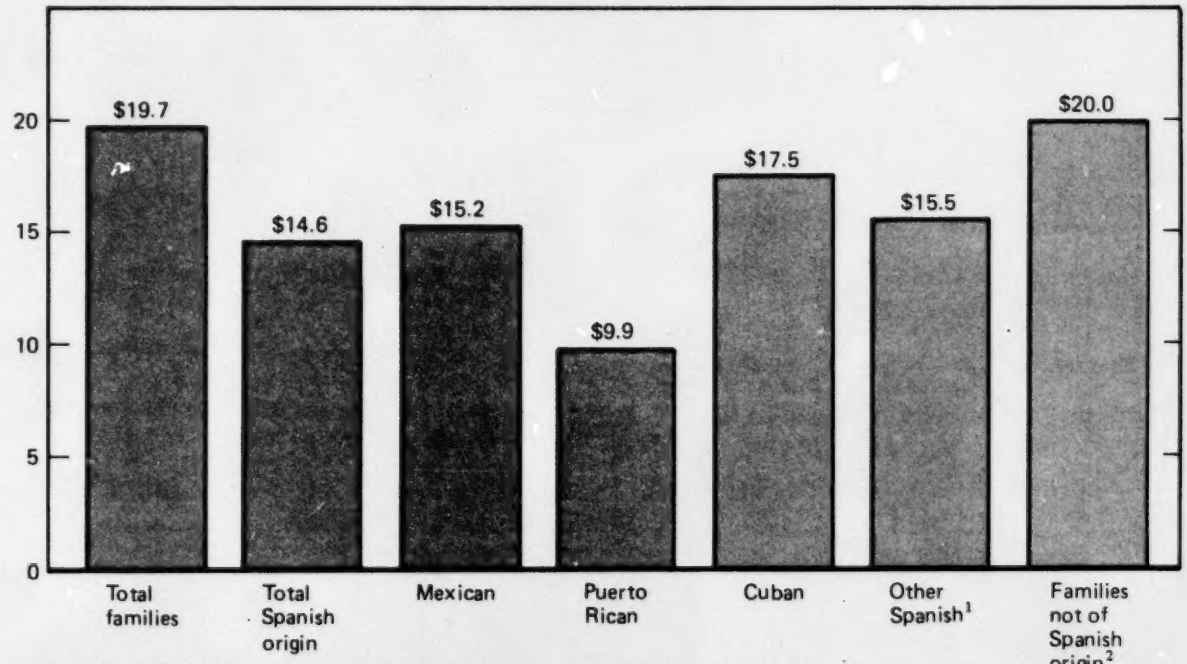
Since the CPS estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules, instructions, and enumerators. There are two types of errors possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling and nonsampling. The standard errors primarily indicate the magnitude of the sampling error. They also partially measure the effect of some nonsampling errors in response and enumeration, but do not measure any systematic biases in the data. The full extent of nonsampling error is unknown.

Standard errors are primarily measures of sampling variability, that is, of the variation that occurred by chance because a sample rather than the entire population was surveyed. The sample estimate and its estimated standard error enable one to construct confidence intervals, or ranges that would include the average result of all possible samples with a known probability. For example, if all possible

samples were selected, each surveyed under essentially the same general conditions and using the same sample design, then the 68-percent confidence interval for the total number of persons of Spanish origin would be from 12.9 to 13.6 million. Therefore, a conclusion that the average estimate derived from all possible samples lies within this range would be correct for roughly 68 percent of all possible samples. Similarly, one could conclude that the average estimate derived from all possible samples lies within the interval from 12.6 to 13.9 million (using twice the standard error) with 95-percent confidence.

Rounding. The numbers in this report are in thousands and were rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals; hence, the sum of the parts may not equal the total shown. Also, because of rounding, the figures may differ slightly from table to table, and individual percentages may not always add to 100 percent.

FIGURE 4.
Median Income in 1979 of All Families and Spanish-Origin Families: March 1980



[1] Includes families with householder of Central or South American and other Spanish origin.
[2] Includes families with householder who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 1. Population of Spanish Origin, by Sex and Type of Spanish Origin: March 1980

(Numbers in thousands)

Type of Spanish origin	Both sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	13,244	100.0	6,597	100.0	6,647	100.0
Mexican	7,932	59.9	4,076	61.8	3,856	58.0
Puerto Rican	1,823	13.8	838	12.7	985	14.8
Cuban	831	6.3	414	6.3	417	6.3
Central or South American	1,022	7.7	462	7.0	561	8.4
Other Spanish	1,635	12.3	807	12.2	829	12.5

Table 2. Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Residence of All Families and Spanish-Origin Families, by Type of Spanish Origin: March 1980

(Numbers in thousands)

Area	Total families	Spanish-origin families					Families not of Spanish origin[2]
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish[1]	
NUMBER							
United States	58,426	3,100	1,785	461	243	611	55,326
Metropolitan areas	39,049	2,587	1,414	435	235	502	36,461
In central cities	15,506	1,495	775	344	96	281	14,011
Outside central cities	23,542	1,092	640	91	139	221	22,451
Nonmetropolitan areas	19,377	512	370	25	8	109	18,865
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION							
United States	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metropolitan areas	66.8	83.5	79.3	94.5	96.7	82.2	65.9
In central cities	26.5	48.2	43.4	74.7	39.5	46.0	25.3
Outside central cities	40.3	35.2	35.8	19.8	57.2	36.2	40.6
Nonmetropolitan areas	33.2	16.5	20.7	5.5	3.3	17.8	34.1

[1]Includes families with householder of Central or South American and other Spanish origin.
[2]Includes families with householder who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 3. Total and Spanish-Origin Population, by Age and Type of Spanish Origin: March 1980

Age	Total population	Spanish origin						Not of Spanish origin[1]
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central or South American	Other Spanish	
All ages.....thousands..	218,100	13,244	7,932	1,823	831	1,022	1,635	204,856
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	7.3	12.9	13.5	13.5	7.2	10.6	13.1	6.9
5 to 9 years	7.4	11.3	11.9	12.1	7.7	9.9	10.0	7.2
10 to 17 years	13.7	17.0	17.0	18.7	14.8	13.9	19.1	13.5
18 to 20 years	5.7	6.5	6.9	6.2	5.0	6.0	6.3	5.6
21 to 24 years	7.2	7.7	8.4	7.0	5.9	9.4	5.3	7.2
25 to 34 years	16.2	16.5	17.4	17.6	11.1	18.3	12.9	16.1
35 to 44 years	11.6	11.1	10.0	10.8	16.8	14.9	11.3	11.7
45 to 54 years	10.4	7.9	7.2	7.1	14.1	8.7	8.6	10.5
55 to 64 years	9.6	4.8	4.1	4.5	7.6	5.1	6.7	9.9
65 years and over	10.9	4.2	3.7	2.7	9.7	3.2	6.7	11.3
18 years and over	71.6	58.8	57.6	55.7	70.2	65.6	57.8	72.4
21 years and over	65.9	52.2	50.7	49.6	65.2	59.6	51.4	66.8
Median.....years..	30.1	22.1	21.4	20.7	33.5	25.1	22.1	30.7

[1]Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

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Table 4. Employment Status and Major Occupation Group of the Total and Spanish-Origin Population 16 Years Old and Over, by Type of Spanish Origin: March 1980

Employment status and occupation	Total population	Spanish origin					Not of Spanish origin[2]
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish[1]	
Persons, 16 years old and over.....thousands..	164,265	8,305	4,886	1,088	619	1,712	155,960
In civilian labor force...thousands..	103,339	5,310	3,266	560	422	1,061	98,030
Percent unemployed.....	6.6	8.9	9.4	11.7	5.0	7.3	6.5
Employed.....thousands..	96,524	4,838	2,958	494	401	984	91,685
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional, technical, and kindred workers.....	16.4	8.5	6.3	8.9	12.4	13.1	16.8
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	11.2	6.6	6.1	3.7	9.0	8.4	11.4
Sales workers.....	6.2	3.8	3.1	3.4	5.9	5.3	6.3
Clerical and kindred workers.....	18.8	16.1	15.7	19.1	14.4	16.8	18.9
Craft and kindred workers.....	12.8	14.0	14.9	10.4	12.4	13.6	12.7
Operatives, including transport.....	14.2	23.7	23.7	29.8	28.4	18.7	13.7
Laborers, excluding farm.....	4.4	7.9	9.3	5.0	6.1	5.7	4.3
Farmers and farm managers.....	1.5	0.3	0.2	-	0.2	0.7	1.5
Farm laborers and supervisors.....	1.0	3.0	4.4	1.1	-	1.0	0.9
Service workers.....	13.5	16.2	16.3	18.6	11.3	16.6	13.4

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

[1]Includes Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

[2]Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 5. Income in 1979 of All Families and Spanish-Origin Families: March 1980

Family income	Total families	Spanish-origin families					Families not of Spanish origin[2]
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish[1]	
Total families.....thousands..	58,426	3,100	1,785	461	243	611	55,326
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than $5,000.....	7.0	12.2	10.6	23.5	8.6	10.0	6.6
$5,000 to $7,499.....	6.5	9.8	8.7	18.3	5.7	8.3	6.3
$7,500 to $9,999.....	7.1	9.7	9.9	8.7	9.0	9.8	6.9
$10,000 to $14,999.....	15.6	19.8	20.1	17.8	18.7	20.7	15.4
$15,000 to $19,999.....	15.0	15.6	17.4	10.3	15.7	14.3	14.9
$20,000 to $24,999.....	14.4	12.3	13.7	8.1	12.4	11.2	14.5
$25,000 or more.....	34.6	20.7	19.6	13.3	29.8	25.8	35.3
Median income.....	$19,661	$14,569	$15,171	$9,855	$17,538	$15,470	$19,965

[1]Includes families with householder of Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

[2]Includes families with householder who did not know or did not report on origin.

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